

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Claims 64-67, 69-81, 84-91, and 95-109 were rejected in the office action. Claims 64-70, 74, 75, 80-83, 89-91 and 95-109 have been canceled. Claims 61, 71, 72, 76 and 84-86 have been amended. Therefore, following entry of the present response, claims 61-63, 71-73, 76-79, 84-88 and 92-94 will be pending in the present application. The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 61-63 and 92-94.

Claims 64-67, 69-70, 74-75, 80 and 95-106 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,777,769 to Coutinho (“Coutinho”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,452,482 to Cern (“Cern”). Claims 71-73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coutinho in view of Cern and U.S. Pat. No. 4,263,549 to Toppeto (“Toppeto”). Claims 76-79, 81, 84-85, 89-91 and 107-109 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coutinho in view of Cern and U.S. Pat. No. 4,070,572 to Summerhayes (“Summerhayes”). Claims 86-88 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coutinho in view of Cern, Summerhayes and Toppeto.

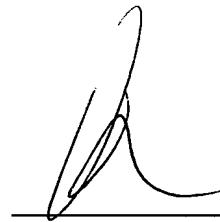
Applicant has amended independent claim 61 to allow for additional dependent claims. Dependent claims 71, 72, 76 and 84-86 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowable claim 61. Therefore, claims 71-73, 76-79 and 84-88 are also allowable as they depend from an allowable claim. As claims 61, 71, 72, 76 and 84-86 have been amended and claims 64-70, 74, 75, 80-83, 89-91 and 95-109 have been canceled, the rejections of these claims are now moot.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.



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